

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TOM WILSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tom Wilson as he retires as executive director of the Canal Alliance after 24 years of service. Under Mr. Wilson's leadership, the Canal Alliance has added numerous programs and services, added more than 30 employees, and has maintained four county contracts and 400 active volunteers a year. He has expanded the organization's budget from \$350,000 to \$3.8 million today, helping to reach more residents in need.

Mr. Wilson has been instrumental in developing an organization that touches the lives of more than 3,500 people per year with educational, vocational, and legal services, as well as family support. The Canal Alliance helps to provide supplemental food distribution to 400 families every week and English as a second language instruction to 1,200 adults per year. After Immigration and Custom Enforcement officers conducted raids in the community, the Canal Alliance began talks with the Marin County Human Rights Commission, city and county officials, and ICE—conversations that ultimately helped stop the immigration raids.

As a result of the cutting-edge work done by Canal Alliance, the organization has been honored with the 2013 North Bay Leadership Council Award for empowering the Latino Community, the Heart of Marin Award for Achievement in Nonprofit Excellence, the Marin Community Foundation's Beryl Buck Achievement Award for Promoting Diversity and Inclusiveness, the Tipping Point Community Award, the U.S. Mayors' End Hunger Award, among others.

In addition to these recognitions, Tom Wilson has been awarded both the Benjamin Dreyfus Civil Liberties Award by the ACLU, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award by the Marin County Human Rights Commission.

Tom Wilson's legacy is one of dedicated service to the children and families of San Rafael. Please join me in congratulating him on his retirement and expressing our deep appreciation for his long and exceptional career and outstanding contributions to the Canal Alliance.

HONORING ZANE GREEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zane Green. Zane is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy

Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zane has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zane has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Zane contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zane Green for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BRENDA FREEMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brenda Freeman, an individual who has been instrumental in shaping young hearts and minds as a member of the Yonkers public school system for nearly three decades.

A graduate of Yonkers Public Schools, Brenda earned her degree from Westchester Community College and has held the position of School Aide and School Number 16 since 1988. In addition to helping students in the Copy Room, Brenda has been instrumental in organizing many school fundraisers, including the Pasta for Pennies event which benefited the Leukemia Foundation and the American heart association Relay for Life. She also spearheaded the P.T.A. membership drive for her local CSEA union, for which she also served as Building Rep. Brenda also created and organized a Multicultural Food Week event for the entire School Number 16 staff, and has served as School social Committee Coordinator.

School Principal Cynthia Eisner has said of Brenda, "She is the Miss Congeniality of School 16 welcoming new staff. She facilitates our SMART Program, picking up the students for the senior citizens that volunteer in our building each week. Ms. Freeman is a well-respected member of the CSEA union and counsels her members wisely. She approaches problems with confidentiality and has a wonderful way of arranging consensus between parties. Ms. Freeman is a dependable reliable, humble person. She finds gratitude in a job done well and does everything with a pleasant attitude."

This year, the Exchange Club of Club of Yonkers is honoring Brenda as their 2016 Civil Service Employee of the Year. She is most deserving of this wonderful recognition. Congratulations to Brenda on receiving this great honor.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY IN INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Indiana Chapter of the American Red Cross in celebration of its 100th anniversary. This dynamic humanitarian organization has made significant contributions to the state of Indiana, to the nation, and around the world. It is my privilege to honor the American Red Cross as it celebrates 100 years of excellence in Indiana. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for their exceptional service and dedication to our Hoosier community.

Inspired by the Swiss Red Cross Network, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross on May 21, 1881, in Washington, DC. The Red Cross received its first congressional charter in 1900 and the second in 1905. Shortly thereafter, the American Red Cross opened their Indiana Chapter in 1916. They have delivered aid in disaster relief, helped feed hungry children, and provided care for the sick. They provide care, shelter, service to veterans, and access to lifesaving blood. Through its strong network of volunteers, donors and partners, the American Red Cross has made a lasting impact in the lives of Hoosiers in their time of greatest need. Over 500,000 volunteers work across America, and more than 3,500 volunteers work to help their fellow Hoosiers in the face of disaster here at home. In 2015 alone the Indiana Red Cross helped 1,300 families through the aftermath of home fires. The Red Cross currently serves 6.3 million Hoosiers across 87 counties in Indiana.

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. Born out of the desire to help without discrimination those wounded on the battlefield, the American Red Cross carries on its legacy by working to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it is found, both nationally and internationally. All people receive the care, shelter, and hope they need in the face of a disaster. Since 2006, the Red Cross and FEMA have worked together to help government agencies and community organizations plan, coordinate and provide feeding, sheltering and family reunification services for people affected by disasters.

Volunteers carry out 90 percent of the humanitarian work done by the Red Cross. Hoosiers and Americans across the country have the opportunity to translate their care and concern for people down the street, across the country and around the world through the American Red Cross. They not only give back to the community, but it also gives the community the ability to give back to the world.

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